

Appl. No. 10/687,381  
Atty. Docket No. 9388  
Amdt. dated January 10, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2005  
Customer No. 27752

### REMARKS

#### Claim Status

Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 15 and 17-19 have been amended to better define the claimed invention with greater specificity by further clarifying that the homo-crosslinking monomeric unit comprises a hydroxyl moiety and lacks an electrophilic moiety and nucleophilic moieties that form stable, covalent bonds with electrophilic moieties. Support for the amendments is found throughout the Specification and Examples.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

#### Telephone Interview

Applicant, Robert Barcus, and Applicants' legal representative, C. Brant Cook, appreciate Examiner Cordray's and Supervisor Examiner Hug's time on December 15, 2005 for participating in a telephone interview during which the prior art references were discussed.

#### Claim Objections

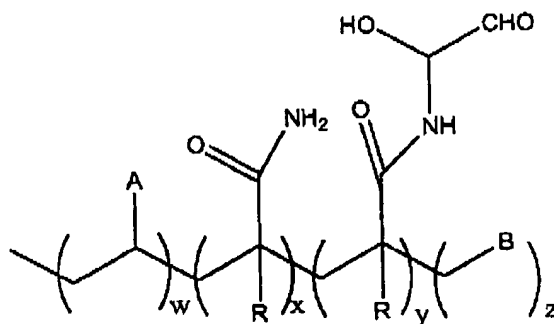
Claim 7 is objected to by the Examiner as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Applicants have amended Claim 7 to depend from Claim 2. Further, Applicants have amended Claim 7 to remove reference to structures that contain too many carbon atoms. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 7, as amended, now properly further limits subject matter of the claim from which it depends.

Appl. No. 10/687,381  
 Atty. Docket No. 9388  
 Amdt. dated January 10, 2006  
 Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2005  
 Customer No. 27752

Rejection Under 35 USC §102(b) Over U.S. Patent No. 4,603,176

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10-13, and 15-20 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,603,176 to Bjorkquist et al. ("the '176 Patent"). The Examiner asserts that the '176 Patent discloses a wet strength resin with the following structure:



wherein A is a polar, non-nucleophilic unit; B is a hydrophilic, cationic unit; each R is H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or halogen; and w, x, y and z represent the mole percents of their respective monomeric units. The Examiner asserts that the single monomeric unit y corresponds to both the co-crosslinking monomeric unit and the homo-crosslinking monomeric unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that the '176 Patent does not teach a temporary wet strength resin comprising a polymer backbone comprising a co-crosslinking monomeric unit that is separate from a homo-crosslinking monomeric unit comprising a hydroxyl moiety and lacking electrophilic moieties (such as aldehyde moieties) and nucleophilic moieties that form stable, covalent bonds with electrophilic moieties, as claimed in Claims 1, 10, 15, 17-19, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 10, 15, 17-19, as amended, are not anticipated by the '176 Patent. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 11-12, 16 and 20, which ultimately depend from one of Claims 1, 10 and 19, as amended, are not anticipated by the '176 Patent.

Appl. No. 10/687,381  
Atty. Docket No. 9388  
Amdt. dated January 10, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2005  
Customer No. 27752

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over U.S. Patent No. 4,603,176

in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,981,557

Claims 5 and 9 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over the '176 Patent, described above, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,981,557 to Bjorkquist ("the '557 Patent"). The Examiner recognizes that the '176 Patent fails to teach a monomer unit with only an aldehyde functionality. The Examiner asserts that the '557 Patent discloses a temporary wet strength resin made from a monomer containing only an aldehyde functionality and no hydroxyl functionality. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a monomer having only an aldehyde functionality, as described in the '557 Patent, into the resin taught by the '176 Patent.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5 and 9, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, as amended, are not rendered obvious over the combined teachings of the '176 Patent and the '557 Patent for the same reasons that Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by the '176 Patent, as discussed above. MPEP 2143.03.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over U.S. Patent No. 4,603,176

in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,039,764

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '176 Patent described above in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,039,764 to Steinwand ("Steinwand"). The Examiner recognizes that the '176 Patent does not teach a surgical gown. The Examiner attempts to combine the teachings of Steinwand with the teachings of the '176 Patent to render Claim 14 obvious.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14, which depends from Claim 10, as amended, is not rendered obvious over the combined teachings of the '176 Patent and Steinwand for the same reasons that Claim 10, as amended, is not anticipated by the '176 Patent, as discussed above. MPEP 2143.03.

Appl. No. 10/687,381  
Atty. Docket No. 9388  
Amdt. dated January 10, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2005  
Customer No. 27752

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a) Over U.S. Patent No. 4,603,176  
in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,317,370

Claim 7 is rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly defining obvious subject matter over the '176 Patent described above in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,317,370 to Kekish et al. ("Kekish"). The Examiner recognizes that the '176 Patent does not teach a separate aldehyde containing and hydroxyl containing sidegroups. The Examiner attempts to remedy this deficiency by combining the teachings of the '176 Patent with the teachings of Kekish to render Claim 7 obvious.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 7, which ultimately depends from Claim 1, as amended, is not rendered obvious over the combined teachings of the '176 Patent and Kekish for the same reasons that Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by the '176 Patent, as discussed above. MPEP 2143.03.

Conclusion

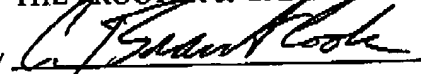
In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 USC §112, §102(b) and §103(a). Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

THE BROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY

By

  
Signature

C. Brant Cook

Typed or Printed Name  
Registration No. 39,151  
(513) 634-1533

Date:

January 10, 2006  
Customer No. 27752